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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is

1 1. A method in a data processing system for researching
2 text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
3 receiving a user input selecting the text from the
4 electronic book to form selected text; and
5 automatically initiating a search for at least one
6 item relevant to the selected text in response to
7 receiving the user input.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one item is
2 at least one of a Web page, a Web site, another
3 electronic book, an electronic document, and a universal
4 resource locator.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing the selected text in a data structure.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein data structure is a
2 search profile.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected text is
2 highlighted text.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted text
2 is text in a different color from unselected text, bolded
3 text, and text with a different font type from unselected
4 text.

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1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted text
2 is a notated passage of text in the electronic book.

1 8. The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted text
2 is a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving a result from the searching; and
3 presenting the result.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving
2 a result is initiated using a search engine.

1 11. A method in a data processing system for searching
2 text, the method comprising:
3 responsive to a designation of the text in an
4 electronic document, placing the text in a data
5 structure;
6 transmitting the data structure to a search engine;
7 and
8 receiving results from the search engine.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the data structure
2 is a search profile.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the search profile
2 includes search criteria.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic

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1 document is an electronic book.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic
2 document is a Web page.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the designation of
2 the text is made by highlighting the text in the
3 electronic document.

1 17. A method in a data processing system for researching
2 highlighted text in an electronic book, the method
3 comprising:
4 receiving results of researched selected text;
5 downloading the results of researched selected text;
6 and
7 displaying the results of researched selected text.

1 18. A data processing system for researching highlighted
2 text in an electronic book, a data processing system
3 comprising:
4 receiving means for receiving a user input selecting
5 the text from the electronic book to form selected text;
6 and
7 initiating means for automatically initiating a
8 search for at least one item relevant to the selected
9 text in response to receiving the user input.

1 19. A method in a data processing system for searching
2 text, the method comprising:

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1 responsive to a designation of the text in an
2 electronic document, placing means for placing the text
3 in a data structure;

4 transmitting means for transmitting the data
5 structure to a search engine; and

6 receiving means for receiving results from the
7 search engine.

1 20. A data processing system comprising:

2 a bus system;

3 a communication unit connected to the bus system;

4 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
5 memory includes a set of instructions; and

6 a processing unit connected to the bus system,
7 wherein the processing unit executes the set of
8 instruction to receiving a user input selecting the text
9 from the electronic book to form selected text; and
10 automatically initiating a search for at least one item
11 relevant to the selected text in response to receiving
12 the user input.

1 21. A computer program product in a computer readable
2 medium for researching highlighted text in an electronic
3 book, the computer program product comprising:

4 first instructions for receiving a user input
5 selecting the text from the electronic book to form
6 selected text; and

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- 1 second instructions for automatically initiating a
- 2 search for at least one item relevant to the selected
- 3 text in response to receiving the user input.

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